



The Play Bureau Newsletter

December 2020

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Merry Christmas



The Play Bureau will be closing for the holiday season on December 22nd and reopening on January 11th. For any queries, please email or leave a message on the answer phone.

Here at Play Bureau, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. We look forward to working with you in 2021.

Regards Helen



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What's On



Season's Greetings... What's New?

HOT OFF THE PRESS!!

❖ Scary Bikers by John Godber

1 F 1 M

When retired miner Don and former private school teacher Carol meet in a graveyard, they could never have imagined how their lives would merge. An innocent coffee leads to a bike ride through the Yorkshire dales, which in turn leads to a tandem ride across Europe to Florence. All seems set for a budding romance, but the date is June 23rd 2016, and Don and Carol are on the opposite sides of the Brexit fence. What follows is a rollercoaster romance, with an unstoppable force meeting an immovable object. One thing is for sure: it takes two to tandem.

❖ The Fulstow Boys by Gordon Steel

10 M 3 F

When Sky News and the rest of the world's press descends on a small village in Lincolnshire all hell breaks loose. Why doesn't the village have a war memorial? And what are they going to do about it? Determined to right a wrong that has been hanging over Fulstow since the First World War, the tenacious Nicola Pike leads the village committee to make a decision that threatens to tear the community apart . . . but Graham is desperate to cure his constipation, Maurice's back is playing up and Moira is furious that someone else has been asked to make the chocolate cake at the forthcoming fete. Set across two time frames, the tale of a village's monumental decision is both heart-breaking and hilarious.

❖ The House by Brian Parks

2 M 2 F

The Redmonds have an unusual relationship – with their dream home. With the kids now raised, it's finally time to move on. They don't, though, want to just sell the place. They want to entrust it to its next owners, so that the new people can have the same great life there as they've had. So the Redmonds have specially selected the buyers, the Libetts. After the official sale, both couples gather in the house for celebratory cocktails and a ceremonial handover of keys. But their party starts turning increasingly awkward, then spins further and further out of control.



❖ Puffs (for young Wizards) By Matt Cox

5M 5F

The New York Times proclaims PUFFS, “A FAST-PACED ROMP through the ‘Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic.’ For POTTERphiliacs who grew up alongside Potter and are eager to revisit that world, ‘PUFFS’ exudes a jovial, winking fondness for all things Harry!”

This clever and inventive play “never goes more than a minute without a laugh” (Nerdist) giving you a new look at a familiar adventure from the perspective of three potential heroes just trying to make it through a magic school that proves to be very dangerous for children. Alongside them are the Puffs, a group of well-meaning, loyal outsiders with a thing for badgers “who are so lovable and relatable, you’ll leave the theatre wishing they were in the stories all along” (Hollywood Life). Their “hilariously heartfelt!” (Metro) and epic journey takes the classic story to new places and reimagines what a boy wizard hero can be.

❖ Treasure Island by La Navet Bete & John Nicolson

4M

For lovers of high energy humour like “The Play That Goes Wrong” This is the one for you Fourteen-year-old Jim Hawkins is serving ale in The Admiral Benbow Inn – when suddenly the door slams open and in strides Billy Bones, the infamous pirate, to change Jim’s life forever...

Soon, Jim finds himself on board The Jolly Todger and setting sail on the high seas. Alongside him, the crew includes Captain Birdseye, Black Dog, Blue Peter, the one-legged Long John Silver, and a parrot called Alexa – and their destination: a mysterious tropical paradise in the Caribbean named Treasure Island. Or Skeleton Island. Depends who you ask.

This riotously chaotic adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson’s beloved Treasure Island is a collaboration between John Nicholson (The Hound of the Baskervilles) and the physical-comedy theatre company Le Navet Bete, with their four actors playing dozens of characters. Available soon to License

❖ Kodachrome by Adam Szymkowicz

2 M 3 F

Welcome to Colchester, a small town where everybody knows each other and the pace of life allows the pursuit of love to take up as much space as it needs. Our tour guide is Suzanne, the town photographer, who lets us peek into her neighbours lives to catch glimpses of romance in all its stages of development. A play about love, nostalgia, the seasons and how we learn to say goodbye.

Looking for something different:

The following are plays that may be of interest. Order one from the list to peruse and get another one from the list free, until the end of January

The Golf Umbrella by William Douglas Home

2 M 2 F

Robert, a failing playwright, is inspired to write his next play on the theme of adultery. Having read the first draft, his wife Susan claims his seduction scene lacks realism and Robert admits that he has had no experience whatsoever with extra-marital affairs. Susan decides to provide him with the experience he needs for his research and arranges a liaison for him with an old flame, Sheila. Susan makes herself scarce while Robert sets to wooing Sheila, who unfortunately realises all too soon that she is being framed and proceeds to foil his plans. Deflated, Robert phones Susan at her mother’s to let her know that their plan has backfired - however Susan is elsewhere, and we are left wondering whether she is carrying out a seduction scenario of her own!



Sleighed To Death by Peter Gordon

4 M 4 F

1930s England, it's Christmas Eve in the manor house of the bumbling aristocrat, Sir Walton Gates and his wife Grace. His daughter Emma from a previous marriage arrives from town with her new companion in tow, the dashing James Washington and added to the mix is Sir Walton's estranged brother Archie, recently returned from years spent in Australia, bringing with him an appetite for mischief and a dodgy accent.

Enter England's most confused police officer, Sergeant Pratt, who unwittingly kicks a hornet's nest of English gentility and the evening soon descends into chaos with hilarious consequences. Magic tricks will fail miserably, shots will inadvertently ring out and identities will be confused but can Pratt identify the individual with murderous intent before a body is found? Probably not . . . In the new prequel to the Inspector Pratt Trilogy, Sleighed to Death takes us back to the ignominious start of Inspector Pratt's career and we discover that his early life as a policeman is no less hilarious!

The Morris by Helen Blakeman

5 F

It's a sunny day in Prestatyn for the End of Season Championships.

Our Lady All Angels' Morris Dancing Troupe are fluffing up their shakers, whitening their pumps and sizing up the competition. As defending Champions, Lily's troupe are attempting to retain their title, something never accomplished before. Could this year's cup go to The Wigan Pierettes, or even the Halton Hi-Lites? As the afternoon wears on it's more than their dance routine that's put to the test as Lily and her troupe prepare for the contest of their lives.

The Morris is a hilarious and powerful play about friendship, motherhood and pom-poms, from the author of Caravan and Normal and the winner of the 2004 Eleanor Rathbone Writers Award.

Native Gardens by Karen Zacarias

2 M 2 F

Pablo, a high-powered lawyer, and doctoral candidate Tania, his very pregnant wife, are realizing the American dream when they purchase a house next door to community stalwarts Virginia and Frank. But a disagreement over a long-standing fence line soon spirals into an all-out war of taste, class, privilege, and entitlement. The hilarious results guarantee no one comes out smelling like a rose.

Waiting For God by Michael Aitkens

4 M 4 F

All the favourite characters from the original series are reimagined for 2017, facing the challenges that come with growing old disgracefully in the era of the silver surfer. At Bayview Retirement Village, battle-axe extraordinaire Diana Trent conspires with new resident Tom Ballard to give the conniving manager his comeuppance through a hilarious conspiracy with unexpectedly heart-warming results.

A Bunch of Amateurs by Nick Newman

3 m 4 F

Keen to boost his flagging career, fading Hollywood action hero Jefferson Steele arrives in England to play King Lear in Stratford – only to find that this is not the birthplace of the Bard, but a sleepy Suffolk village.

And instead of Kenneth Branagh and Dame Judi Dench, the cast are a bunch of amateurs trying to save their theatre from developers. Jefferson's monstrous ego, vanity and insecurity are tested to the limit by the enthusiastic am-dram thespians. As acting worlds collide and Jefferson's career implodes, he discovers some truths about himself – along with his inner Lear!

The Old People Are Revolting by Devon Williamson

2 M 5 F

The senior residents of Sunshine Lifestyle Village have had enough.. they're revolting!

Once the 'makers and shakers' of their community, the residents of Sunshine Village are now largely ignored, and relegated to the side-lines of life. The world is about to find out how dangerous retired lawyers, car salesmen, hairdressers and farmers can be! Using the United Nations charter on the rights of self determination the residents decide to create their own independent Kingdom, appoint a monarch and teach the wider community a lesson. The resulting chaos and shenanigans draws the attention of the international media and upsets the nations balance of power.



The Fox on the Fairway by Ken Ludwig

3 M 3 F

A tribute to the great English farces of the 1930's and 1940's, the fox on the runway takes audiences on an hilarious romp which begins as Quail Valley Country Club prepares to take on archrival Crouching Squirrel in the Annual Inter-Club Golf Tournament. With a sizable wager at stake, the contest plays out amidst three love affairs, a disappearing diamond, objectionable sweaters and an exploding vase. A charmingly madcap adventure about love, life and man's eternal love affair withgolf.

Forget – Me – Knot by David Tristram

2 M 2 F

Imagine the plight of poor Robert Zeinfeld Found wandering the streets of Leicester at 4 a.m. without even the slightest clue how he got there Total amnesia And only a bruised head and a suspicious policeman for company Not an experience you'd forget in a hurry But then again, you have to see it from the policeman's point of view Perhaps this Zeinfeld character's not what he seems Perhaps he's got something to hide Perhaps he hasn't lost his memory at all Perhaps it's all an elaborate cover-up for, well, something or other Trouble is, the deeper the policeman digs, the more confused he gets, until he finds himself wrestling a plot with more twists than a buckled Slinky Of course, the truth always comes out in the end Or does it?

The Revlon Girl by Neil Anthony Docking

5 F

Set eight months following Aberfan Disaster of 1966 (in which 144 people were killed; 116 of them children) The Revlon Girl tells the real life story of a group of bereaved mothers who met every week above a local hotel to talk, cry and even laugh without feeling guilty. At one of their meetings, the women looked at each other and admitted how much they felt they'd let themselves go. So afraid that people would think them frivolous, they secretly arranged for a representative from Revlon to come and give them a talk on beauty tips.

The Girl On The Train by Rachael Wagstaff & Duncan Abel

4 M 3 F

Rachel Watson longs for a different life.

Her only escape is the perfect couple she watches through the train window every day, happy and in love. Or so it appears. When Rachel learns that the woman she's been secretly watching has suddenly disappeared, she finds herself as a witness and even a suspect in a thrilling mystery in which she will face bigger revelations than she could ever have anticipated.

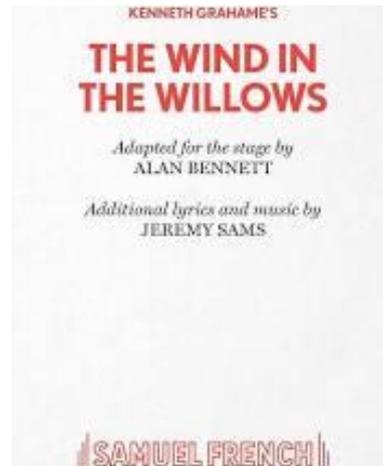
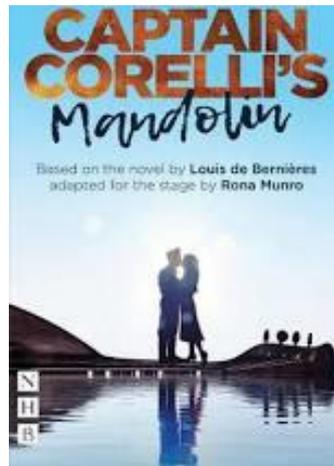
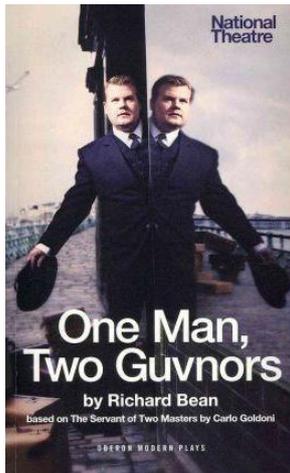
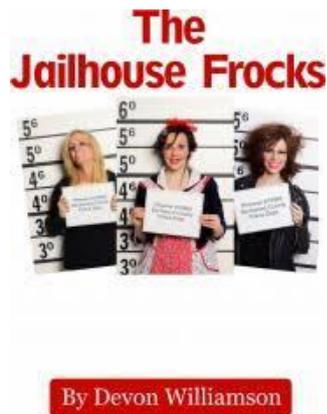
The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold & Bryony Lavery

4 M 6 F

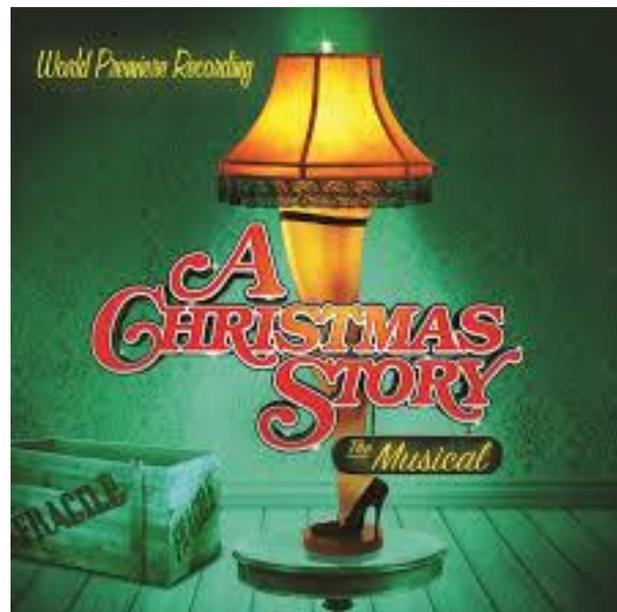
Susie Salmon is just like any other young girl. She wants to be beautiful, adores her charm bracelet and has a crush on a boy from school. There's one big difference though – Susie is dead. Now she can only observe while her family manage their grief in their different ways. Her father, Jack is obsessed with identifying the killer. Her mother, Abigail is desperate to create a different life for herself. And her sister, Lindsay is discovering the opposite sex with experiences that Susie will never know. Susie is desperate to help them and there might be a way of reaching them...

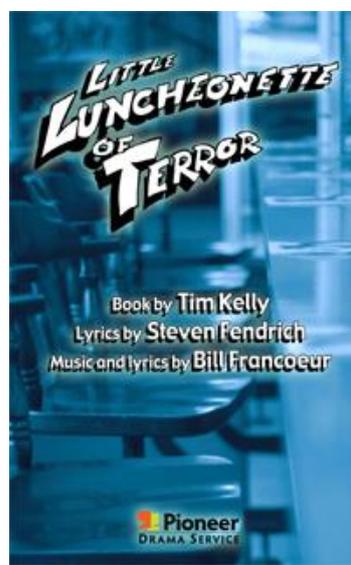
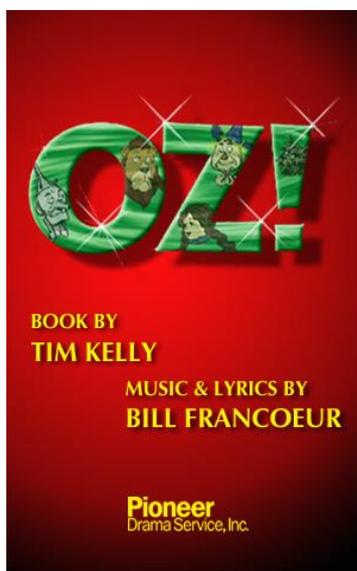
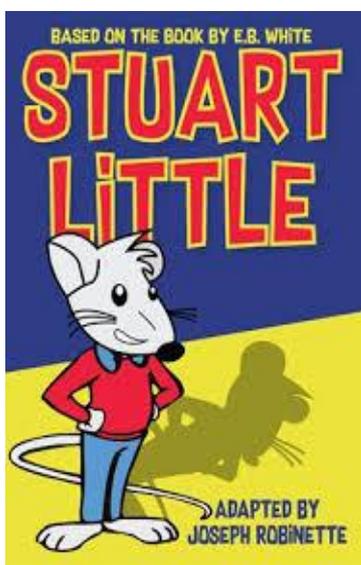
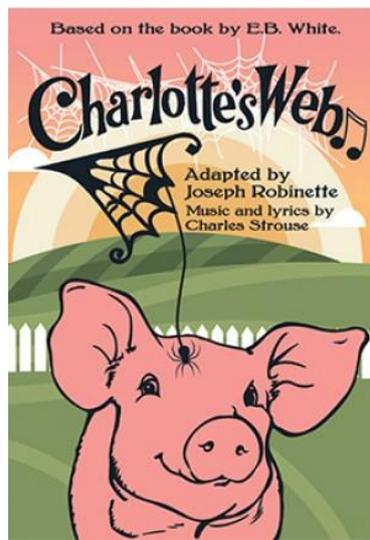
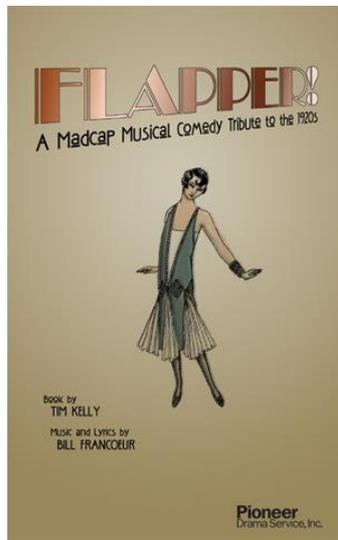
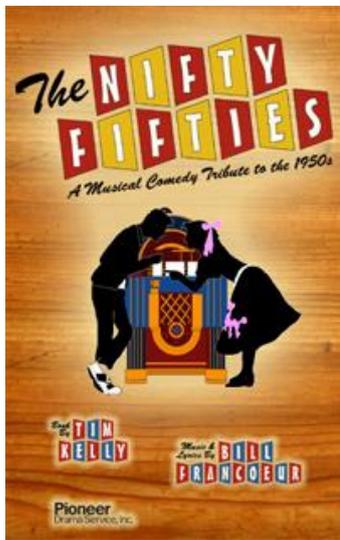
Alice Sebold's novel The Lovely Bones is a unique coming-of-age tale that captured the hearts of readers throughout the world. Award-winning playwright Bryony Lavery has adapted it for this unforgettable play about life after loss.

Plays with Music:



Youth & Family Musicals:





What's On around the Country

Title	Author	Group	Date
Charlotte's Web	Joseph Robinette	Evolution Theatre Company	Jan 15 - Jan 30
A Bunch of Amateurs	Nick Newman	Havelock Theatre Company Inc	Jan 21 - Jan 30
The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) (Revised)	Adam Long Daniel Singer Jess Winfield	Summer Shakespeare Tauranga Trust	Jan 27 - Jan 31
Fantastic Mr Fox	Roald Dahl	Performing Arts Taumarunui	Feb 18 - Feb 21
Shakers Re -Stirred	John Godber	Nick Wilkinson	Feb 20 - Feb 21
Escaped Alone	Caryl Churchill	Carving in Ice	Feb 20 - Feb 25
Contractions	Mike Bartlett	The Actors Programme	Feb 23 - Mar 06
Rough Justice	Terence Frisby	New Plymouth Repertory Society	Feb 25 - Mar 05
The House	Brian Parks	Howick Little Theatre	Feb 27 - Mar 20
Cacophony	Molly Taylor	John Paul College	Mar 04 - Mar 05
Witness For The Prosecution	Agatha Christie	South Canterbury Drama League Inc	Mar 05 - Mar 12
Get Smart	Mel Brooks	Hamilton Playbox	Mar 13 - Mar 27
Love From A Stranger	Agatha Christie / Frank Vosper	Cambridge Repertory Society	Mar 13 - Mar 27
Cat On A Hot Tin Roof	Tennessee Williams	Company Theatre	Mar 14 - May 29
The Glass Menagerie	Tennessee Williams	Friends of the Globe Theatre	Mar 17 - Mar 27
Love on the Beach	Raymond Hopkins	Inglewood Dramatic Soc	Mar 17 - Mar 27
Under Milk Wood (The Definitive Edition)	Dylan Thomas	Whangarei Repertory Society (Octagon Theatre)	Mar 18 - Mar 27
Iron	Rona Munro	A Little Box At The Top Of The Stairs Productions	Mar 18 - Mar 20
The Father	Christopher Hampton	Country Players Inc	Mar 19 - Mar 27
Two	Jim Cartwright	Sahara Breeze Ltd	Mar 22 - Mar 26

The Girl On The Train	Rachel Wagstaff & Duncan Abel	Waipukurau Dramatic Soc - Little Theatre	Mar 24 - Apr 03
My Husbands Nuts	Devon Williamson	Theatre Hawkes Bay	Mar 24 - Apr 03
Captain Corelli's Mandolin	Louis de Bernieres/ Munro	Wellington Repertory Theatre	Mar 31 - Apr 10
Girls Like That	Evan Placey	Rotorua Girls High School	Apr 07 - Apr 08
Brassed Off	Paul Allen	Porirua Little Theatre Inc	Apr 14 - Apr 24
Puffs (Two Act for Young Wizards)	Matt Cox	Birkenhead College	Apr 14 - Apr 17
Melancholy Play	Sarah Ruhl	University of Otago- Theatre Studies Programme	Apr 15 - Apr 16
Steel Magnolias	Robert Harling	Evolution Theatre Company	Apr 15 - Apr 25
Calendar Girls	Tim Firth	Levin Little Theatre	Apr 16 - May 01
The Crazy Cowgirls of Pemberley Ranch	Jon Jury	Whangarei Repertory Society (Octagon Theatre)	Apr 16 - May 02
Last Tango In Little Grimley	David Tristram	Cambridge Repertory Society	Apr 17 - Apr 18
T/V Thriller	Phoebe M Rees	Cambridge Repertory Society	Apr 17 - Apr 18
The Boys In The Band	Mart Crowley	Riccarton Players	Apr 21 - May 01
No Sex Please, We're British	Anthony Marriott	Casnova Productions	Apr 22 - May 01
Equus	Peter Shaffer	Napier Theatre Company	Apr 23 - May 01
Steel Magnolias	Robert Harling	Papakura Theatre Co. Inc	May 01 - May 15
A Kind Of Justice	Margaret Wood	Friends of the Globe Theatre	May 06 - May 09
Blue Stockings	Jessica Swale	Howick Childrens & Youth Theatre Inc	May 06 - May 09
A Respectable Wedding	Bertolt Brecht	Friends of the Globe Theatre	May 06 - May 09
Menopause Made Me Do It	Devon Williamson	Morrinsville Little Theatre	May 06 - May 15
The Girl On The Train	Rachel Wagstaff & Duncan Abel	Howick Little Theatre	May 08 - May 29

The Gingerbread House In The Forest	Anne Coulter Martens	Howick Childrens & Youth Theatre Inc	May 08 - May 09
The Revlon Girl	Neil Anthony Docking	Greytown Little Theatre	May 19 - May 29
Find Me	Olwen Wymark	Rutherford College	May 19 - May 21
The Revival	James Cawood	Dolphin Theatre Inc	May 28 - Jun 12

All the best for your 2021 productions, look forward to working with you in the new year